

MISSOURI MILLS

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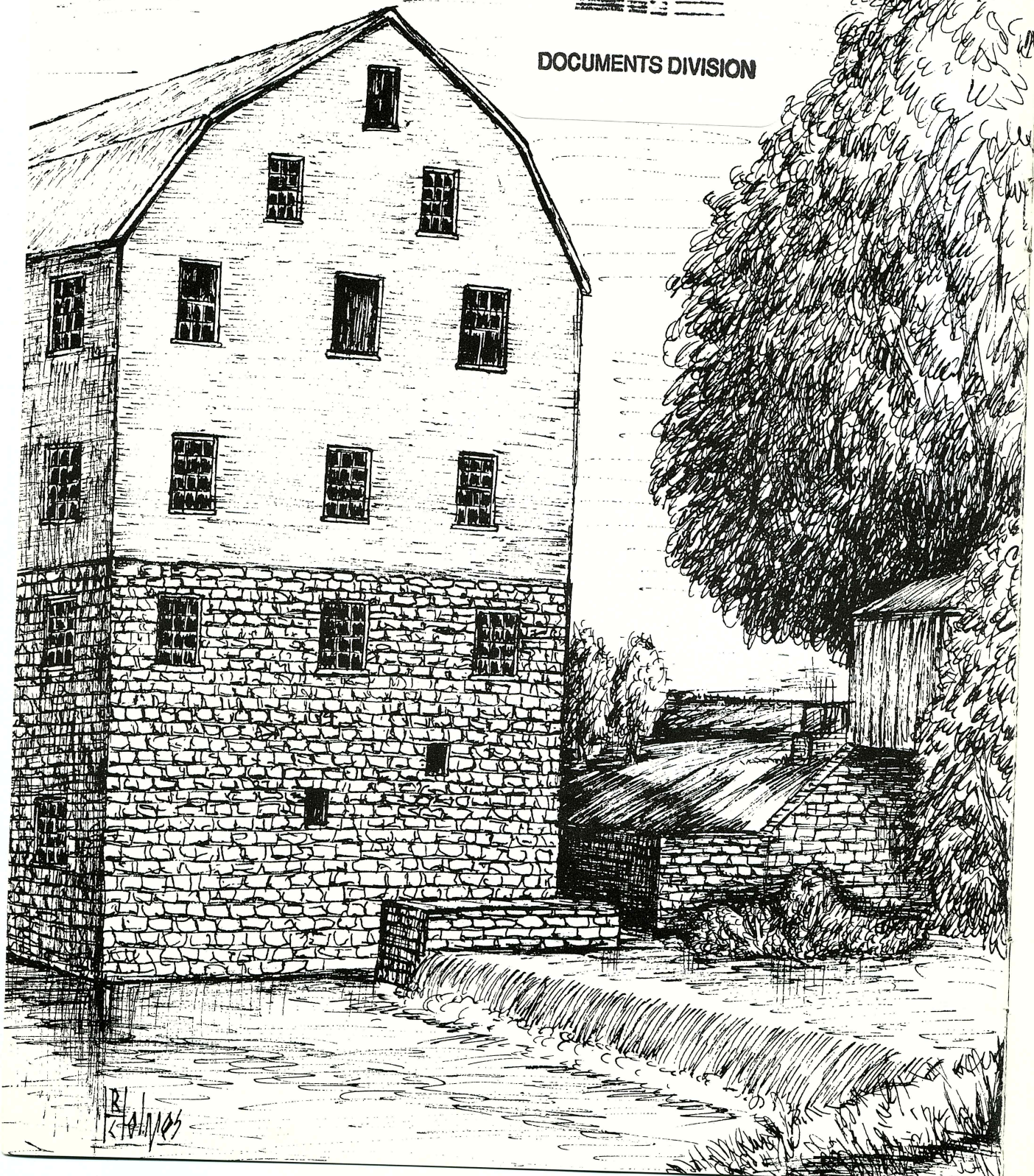
No. Covered

and
COVERED BRIDGES

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THE ERA OF GRIST MILLS . . .

Going to mill. It was an adventure for the entire family. In the days of Missouri's early settlements, in the days of no newspapers, poor roads and slow means of transportation, the mill was much more than just a place of business. It was a way of life. It was a social and intellectual center. In the busy harvest season farmers would bring the whole family and camp near the mill for two or three days waiting their turn to have their grain ground. Depending on the distance, these trips were sometimes made only two or three times a year. The trip to the mill was a necessity because regardless of how independent the people of the times were, they could not conveniently grind the grain for meal and flour. So it was at the mill people gathered. Settlers had an opportunity to become acquainted with others many miles away and all neighborhood, county, state and world news they had was discussed and disseminated. Marriages, births, deaths, crops, politics, all the topics of common interest came in for consideration. The children played and fought and were admired. Many romances were a result of the gatherings at the mill. The earliest mills were powered by wooden water wheels, either the overshot wheel or the undershot wheel. These were eventually replaced by the turbine, the type of wheel seen most often today at mills which remain. Missouri's scenic, swift flowing Ozark streams were naturals for powering the many mills which sprang up. Today, relatively few remain, but their picturesque settings have changed little.

. . . AND COVERED BRIDGES

Picturesque. That's how they're most often referred to today, but at the time they were quite common and definitely served a purpose. Sometime referred to as "kissing bridges" because it was so convenient for a fellow to "steal" a kiss from his girl in the cool darkness of the bridge, the covered bridges today are being restored and retained for their historic value and the role they played in our American heritage. In 1942 Missouri claimed eleven of the old bridges, today five remain. The first U. S. patent for covered wood bridges was awarded to Charles Peal on January 21, 1797. He was also the famous painter of George Washington. The bridges were covered because it was discovered that if the timbers of the bridge were protected from the elements by sidings and a roof, it would last longer. The covered bridges remaining in Missouri are now more than a century old. It is also said that the covering of the bridges, made to look like a barn, helped to coax reluctant farm animals to cross the rushing rivers or streams and to help prevent horses from shying. Many types of bridge structures were used, but the most popular type in Missouri seems to have been the Howe truss, patented in 1840 by William Howe of Spencer, Massachusetts. The bridges remaining have been restored and stand today as a symbol of those now seemingly romantic days of yesteryear.



AID-HODGSON MILL

OZARK COUNTY

....east of Gainsville on Hwy. 160 and north on Hwy. 181, near Sycamore. The Aid-Hodgson Mill still operates in the beautiful valley of spring-fed Bryant Creek. The first mill was built by William Holeman about 1870. In 1884 Alva Hodgson bought the Holeman mill, but operated it for only a few years. Hodgson cut and milled the timber and built a new, more efficient mill almost entirely by himself. The hand-hewn pine beams are held together with wooden draw pins. Nodular flint millstones were imported from the Pyrenees Mountains in France. The Civil War forced the mill to close, but it was reopened at the end of the war by William Holeman. The original equipment remains and grinding is done by two turbines powered by the spring. White and yellow corn meal, whole wheat cereal and bran, whole wheat, unbleached rye, and pancake flours are for sale at the mill.



ZANONI MILL

OZARK COUNTY

....east of Gainsville on Hwy. 160 and north on Hwy. 181. Milling began at Zanoni Mill, located on the spring-fed Pine Creek, during Civil War days. In 1900 John Cody and George Shoemaker bought the property, built a new mill and added a saw mill. The upper floor of the mill served as a dance hall for several years. The mill burned shortly before 1905, but the iron parts of the machinery and the mill stones remained intact. In 1905, A. P. Morrison built the third mill to stand at Zanoni. He sent to France for a new set of 18-inch, flint buhrstones at the cost of \$125 which were capable of grinding 20 bushels of corn per day. As payment Morrison took every one-eighth measure for himself. The mill has a rare overshot water wheel designed by Morrison and made in 1940 to replace the one Shoemaker and Cody had built. The mill was last in operation in 1951.

DAWT MILL

OZARK COUNTY

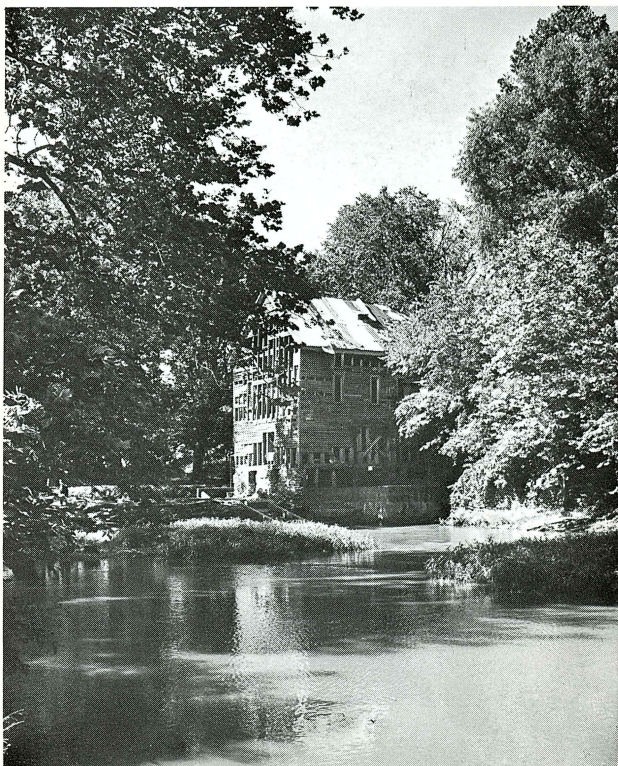
....located east of Gainesville on Hwy. 160 and north on PP, on the banks of the swift flowing North Fork River, was built by Alva Hodgson in 1900. The long angling v-shaped dam, built in 1897, directs the water toward the east bank of the stream and into the mill race. The present mill still produces corn meal, graham flour and feed. The original French stone buhrs still lie under the floor of the mill. However, the 27-inch buhrs now in use were purchased in 1947 and are capable of grinding 300 pounds of grain per hour. All of the power for the work at the mill is generated by underwater turbines that are turned by the North Fork River. Electricity is used only for lighting the mill. Picnic areas and parking areas for campers have been provided for visitors. There is no charge for admission to the mill or for use of the picnic areas. Sandwiches and drinks are sold at the store along with antiques, souvenirs, wood sculptures, and of course, flour and meal that are ground at the mill.



DILDAY MILL

DADE COUNTY

....6½ miles south of Greenfield on Hwy. 39 and 3 miles east on County Route K. Located on the uniquely named Turnback Creek, the Dilday Mill was originally built in 1840 by Britton Finley. As were many of the old mills, the Dilday Mill was burned during the Civil War. In 1867 John B. Dilday constructed the present mill on the same site and it immediately took the name of its builder. A small village grew up around the mill and the post office there was named Turnback. A general store and a blacksmith shop were also nearby. The Dilday Mill, in operation until 1943, ground corn meal and flour. In the late 1950's the flour rollers and the forty-two-inch stone buhrs were sold. The turbine water wheel which powered the mill has also been sold and today the old mill structure stands quiet and alone, void of the clanging mill machinery that once made it an active, bustling place.





ALLEY SPRING MILL

SHANNON COUNTY

....6 miles west of Eminence on Hwy. 106 at Alley Spring Park in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The beautifully clear blue-green waters of Alley Spring create a picture-book setting for the Old Red Mill. The first mill on the site was built in 1869 by James McCormack. It was a very rustic structure and was replaced in 1894 with the completion of the present mill built by millwright Jerome Thurkill at the direction of George Washington McCaskill. The mill originally had a water wheel but was later converted to a turbine which still powers the mill today. When operating at its peak, the mill produced 25 barrels of flour per day and 50 bushels of cornmeal. The original machinery remains intact and working condition and grinds cornmeal which is sold at the mill. The mill structure also houses a picture museum of the area from 1900-1940 and old logging and farming tools. The mill is open and operates from 8-5 daily. Picnic and camping areas are available in the park.



McDOWELL MILL

BARRY COUNTY

....east of Monett on Hwy. 60, southeast on County Route Z and south on County Route VV to McDowell. The original mill was constructed more than 100 years ago and rebuilt by the Hutchins Brothers in 1886. The mill stands about 100 feet from Flat Creek. A 30-foot mill race brings the water from the creek to power the mill's turbine wheel. The original buhrstones and machinery are still in the mill. At one time there was a saw mill hooked to the shaft that operated the mill. The carts which were used to haul the lumber were operated on railroad tracks and still remain. Years ago, McDowell was the main playground for Monett and the surrounding area. Not only could people have their flour and meal ground at the mill, but they could picnic, fish and swim there as well.

HULSTON MILL

DADE COUNTY

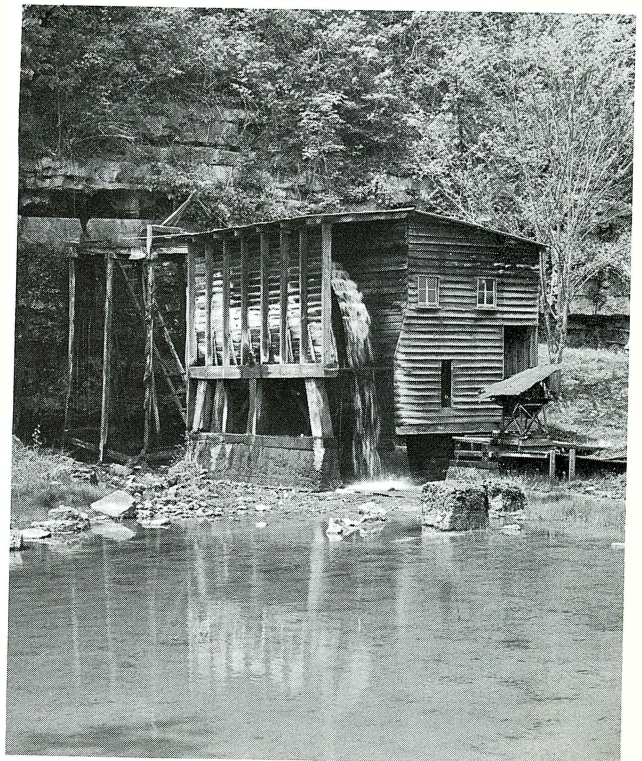
....east of Greenfield on Hwy. 160, 1.8 miles north on EE and right 1.5 miles. The mill, originally located on the Sac River, has been removed due to the construction of Stockton Dam and the waters from the lake. The original mill was built in 1838 by Henry Pemberton and was known as the Pemberton Mill for many years. In 1840 the mill washed away but Pemberton rebuilt it that same year. That mill later burned. During the Civil War food was hauled from the mill to help feed the large troop concentrations in and around Springfield, Mo. During this period, home guards were organized to protect the mill from being burned by raiders. In 1870, John Hulston purchased the property and built a new and larger mill. Modern case roller mills were installed to grind flour and the name was changed to the Hulston Mill. The mill was last in operation in the early 1950's.



FALLING SPRING

OREGON COUNTY

....12 miles south of Winona on Hwy. 19, 3 miles east on gravel road (watch for sign "Falling Spring") in the Mark Twain National Forest. This abandoned and isolated mill sits in a beautifully quiet and serene setting. A foot bridge crosses the mill pond to the clearing where the 16x20-foot mill structure stands. The waters of Falling Spring, which produces 90,000 gallons of water per day, fall fifteen feet from a cleft in the cliff to a wooden flume and over the now quiet and rusted, over-shot water wheel. The present mill was built about 1925 by J. W. Brown on property that had been in the Brown family since 1853. It is believed that Brown's father constructed the original mill on the site in the 1870's. The mill primarily ground feed for stock and the grain hopper in the miniature-sized mill held only one bushel of grain. The machinery remains intact in the mill. Tall sycamores and weeping willows complete the landscaping of this picturesque old mill.



RITCHEY MILL

NEWTON COUNTY

....14 miles west of Monett on Hwy. 60, north on county Route W to Ritchey and right at the red brick post office. Located on Shoal Creek, the first mill was built by H. M. Ritchey in 1874. He operated a saw mill in addition to the flour mill. The roller mill had a capacity of 150 barrels of flour per day. Ritchey was a popular place for picnicking, fishing and swimming. A still was once operated at the mill and until 1936 an ice plant was also in operation. Mills at Ritchey have burned twice and washed away once, but the original dam and part of the original foundation remain. The existing mill was built in 1936 with a capacity of four tons of meal per day. The millstone is dated 1854. The mill last operated in 1960. The mill still houses an old Fairbanks-Morse 117 diesel engine that operated the mill when the water was too low to provide power. At one time, as the first electric plant west of St. Louis, the engine produced electricity for all of Ritchey.



GREER MILL

OREGON COUNTY

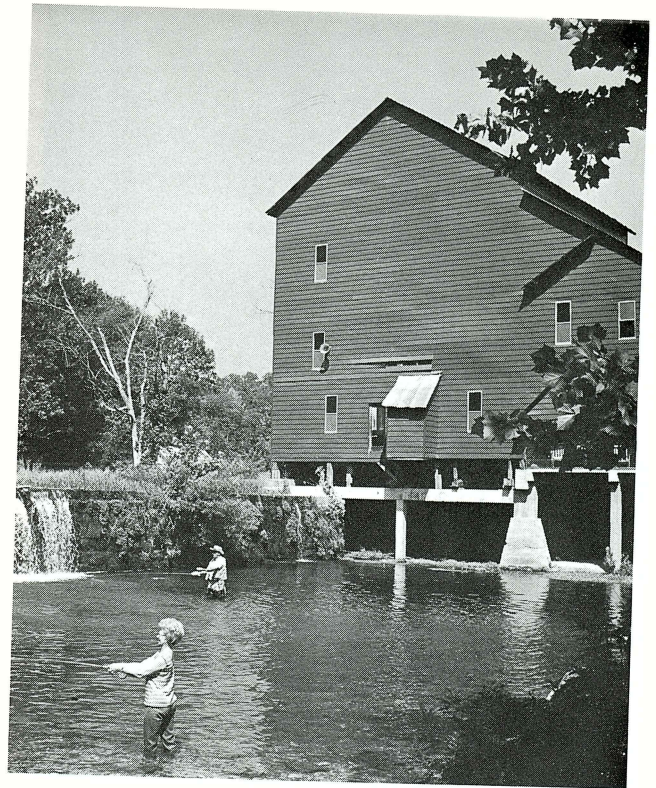
....8 miles north of Alton, 1 mile north of Greer community on Hwy. 19. The present Greer Mill, built in 1899 by Samuel W. Greer and G. W. Mainprize, was powered in a most unique manner. Greer Spring, a most beautiful spring and the second largest spring in the state, runs at the base of the hill on which the mill stands. A water wheel on the spring branch powered the mill, three-fourths of a mile away, by means of a system of cables and pulleys extending up the hill to the mill. This was the only such power system used by a mill in the state and is believed to be the only one of its type in the nation. The mill also operated as a saw mill. An earlier mill was built on the same site in 1859 by Greer. Today the mill stands closed and crowded by foliage and a path meanders through the woods to the beautiful spring. It's an invigorating walk back up the hill. The mill and spring both, though located in the Mark Twain National Forest, are owned by Louis Denning.



ROCKBRIDGE MILL

OZARK COUNTY

....east of Gainsville on Hwy. 160, north on Hwy. 181 and west on county Route N. Milling at Rockbridge dates back to Civil War days, but the builder and the exact date of the first mill are unknown. By 1897 Rockbridge was a milling center for the surrounding area and B. V. Morris and a Mr. Dunn operated the mill, a sawmill, a planing mill and a cotton gin on Spring Creek. About 1888 Morris bought out his partner and either built a new mill structure or added to the existing building. This is the mill that stands today. Originally, the mill pond was impounded by log and stone dams, but in 1887 the dam was partially washed away. In 1895 a new dam was built. As the last stone was laid, the town band played a serenade on the dam and a dance celebrated the occasion. At its peak, the mill produced 50 barrels of flour a day. It ceased operation in 1940.



DOLLE MILL

BOLLINGER COUNTY

....3.4 miles northwest of Sedgewickville on County Route EE, turn right on unmarked, gravel road, two miles to mill. Located in Bollinger County, the Dolle Mill was built about 1815 by Mathias Bollinger. The three-story frame mill, which still houses its original equipment and mill stones, imported from France, was purchased in 1853 by John Hermann Dolle. It remained in the Dolle family until 1936 when it was bought by Terry Bollinger, the present owner, and descendant of the builder. Located on the White-water River, the six-foot mill dam is one mile upstream, and the water was channeled to the mill through a canal, creating a total drop from the dam to the mill of fourteen feet. A large water wheel originally powered the mill; but this was replaced in the 1880's by a turbine wheel. Today the machinery sits idle, and the old mill serves as a feed store.

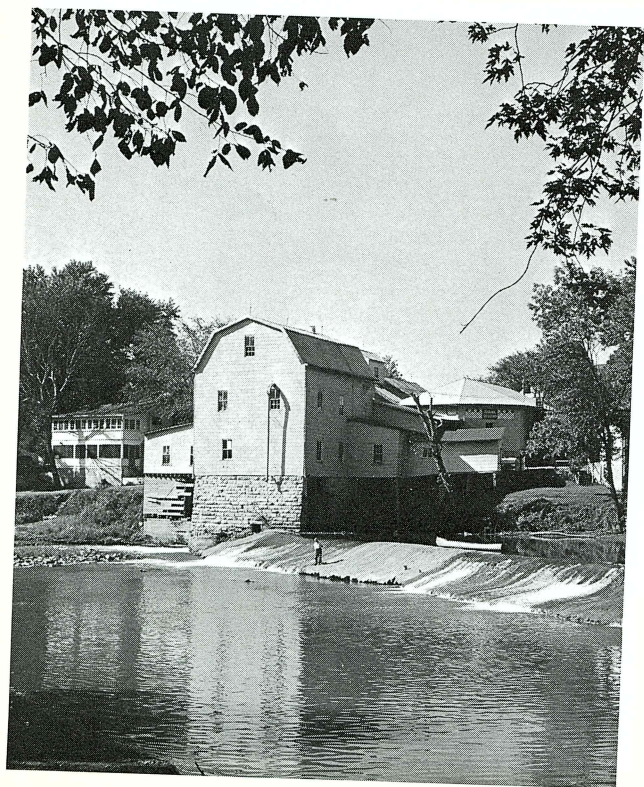




TOPAZ MILL

DOUGLAS COUNTY

....south on 181 from Cabool, 4.4 miles west on County Route HH to unmarked road, south. In 1890 a man by the name of Hutchison hired a Mr. Smith to build the Topaz Mill. The underwater turbine was operated by the waters from Topaz Spring, although the North Fork River flows nearby. The original machinery still remains in the mill, along with the French imported buhrstones. High patent flour, much like the flour of today, was processed through three rolls. The mill also contained a barber shop. The old barber chair remains, along with the inscription on the wall "haircuts 25 cents, tonic 10 cents." Flour was made at the mill until the early 1930's and corn meal until the late 1930's. The village of Topaz consisted of a general store that closed in 1945, a tomato canning factory, a blacksmith shop, and in later years, a garage.



CEDAR HILL MILL

JEFFERSON COUNTY

....in Jefferson County, is located one mile east of Hwy. 30 at Cedar Hill on the Big River. The three-story frame building of hand-hewn timbers was built in 1882 by Michael F. Byrnes. Before the machinery was moved in, the opening of the new mill was celebrated by a big square dance. The mill was originally operated by a water wheel, no longer in existence. The mill was purchased by Louis R. Radeackar in 1886 and has been in the Radeackar family since that time. The mill discontinued operation as a flour mill in 1933 and in 1936 began making feed, switching to diesel power in 1938. Wilbur and Walter Radeackar currently operate the mill as a feed store. The original wooden dam has been replaced by concrete and creates a delightful place for swimming. A picnic area is also available.

DILLARD MILL

CRAWFORD COUNTY

....Hwy. 49 to Dillard and two miles southwest of Dillard on an unmarked, gravel road. The well-kept Dillard Mill, located on the Huzzah River, brightens its beautiful setting with its recent coat of red paint. The natural, solid rock dam, the only one of its kind in the state, creates a beautiful waterfall. The mill raceway is cut through the rock formation. The present mill was built about 1900 and operated as a water-powered grist mill until 1956. The mill was powered by a turbine wheel. All of the machinery remains in the mill and in good condition. An earlier mill constructed on the same site was built before 1859 and was powered by a water wheel. The mill was named for Joseph Dillard Cotrell. The picturesque mill may be visited with the permission of its present owner Lester E. Klemme who lives near the mill.



DRY KNOB MILL

LACLEDE COUNTY

....13 miles east of Lebanon on Hwy. 32 and north on an unmarked, gravel road which deadends at the mill. The Dryknob Mill was originally constructed about 1890 by Allen Parm on the Osage Fork River. The mill was used for grinding corn meal and also operated as a saw mill. Just before the turn of the century, John McElroy purchased the property and installed a large, up-to-date turbine-powered flour mill. The village that grew up around the mill consisted of a post office, a blacksmith shop, three general stores and a hotel. The post office closed in 1957, and the last store in 1967. The original buhrstones remain at Dryknob. Flour and meal were last ground at the mill during the late 40's. The mill was operated at that time by Douglas Stout. The James Brothers are reported to have frequented the Dryknob hotel.





APPLETON MILL

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

....at Appleton on Hwy. 61. The picturesque setting of the bright, red Old Appleton Mill and the steel bridge built in 1874 that spans Apple Creek, parallel to the dam, takes one back several decades. The mill, which still houses some of the original equipment, was built in 1824 by Alfred McLane. The original structure still stands. The mill was a focal point of the little community of Appleton and shortly after the mill began operation the community incorporated. Appleton, a German settlement, was described as a "gemutlich" community — homey, genial and comfortable. The mill dam, originally of logs, was replaced by a concrete dam around 1900. The turbine wheel of the old mill powered its machinery until World War II when it discontinued operation. In its long lifetime, the mill has had six owners. The present owners plan future restoration. The banks of Apple Creek provide a delightful picnic spot and the creek is still a favorite "swimming hole".



MONTAUK MILL

DENT COUNTY

....12 miles southwest of Salem on Hwy. 32 and 10 miles south on Hwy. 119 to Montauk State Park. The cold, clear waters of Montauk Spring form the headwaters of the beautiful Current River. The water of this river once powered the turbine wheel of the unusually constructed Montauk Mill. The side walls of the mill were built of pieces of lumber 2 x 6 inches and 2 x 8 inches laid one on top the other and pinned together. This seldom-seen method was used to make the structure as sturdy as possible because the shakers and separators were located on the third floor of the three-story building. The mill was built in 1896. An earlier mill on the same site burned in 1895. In 1942 the huge steel rollers used in the grinding process were removed from the mill at the request of the U.S. Government which was requisitioning all available steel for use in World War II. Some of the original equipment remains in the mill. The mill was purchased by the State of Missouri in 1927, and is maintained by the state park system.

JOLLY MILL

NEWTON COUNTY

....8 miles west of Monett on Hwy. 60 and north at the flooring factory. Located on picturesque Capps Creek, Jolly Mill, originally built as a distillery, was built in 1837 of hand-hewn timbers and put together with wooden pegs. Slaves owned by John Isbell built and operated the distillery until the government placed a revenue on whiskey. In order to avoid paying the revenue, Isbell converted his distillery into a flour mill. Due to the effect of the whiskey on those who consumed it, the village that grew up around the mill was named Jollification and later shortened to Jolly. During the Civil War, Bushwhackers burned the village, but spared the distillery; it seems they didn't want to destroy the product made there. The mill, powered by an undershot wheel located under the mill, is no longer in continuous operation, but Mr. Haskins, the owner, still grinds feed there for his own use.

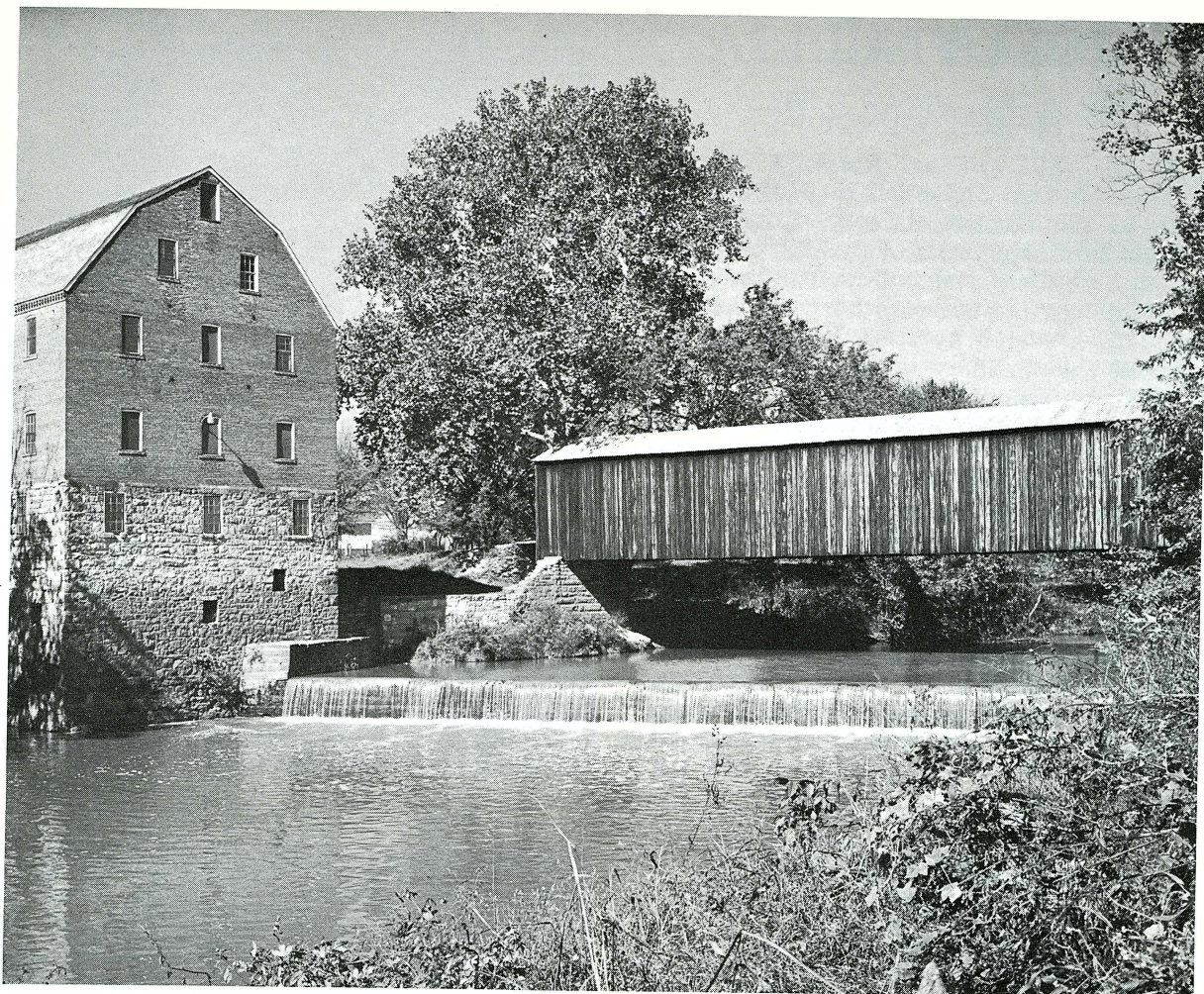


ROBINSON MILL

IRON COUNTY

....Hwy. 21 to Annapolis, west on County Route K, north on unmarked road immediately after crossing railroad tracks. Follow signs. Corn is still ground into cornmeal at this century-old mill located on Big Creek. Elmer Robinson, owner of the mill since 1932, enjoys the grinding and does it for a hobby. The building is constructed of native virgin pine put together with hickory pins. Water flows along a 100-foot millrace to turn the fins of the turbine under the old mill and it is believed the buhrstones now in use date back to 1851. The first mill on the site was built in that year by John Cravens. He imported the exceptionally sturdy stones from France at a cost of about \$1000. The pair weighs about 3000 pounds. The 300-foot dam, originally built of logs, was concreted in 1900. Robinson packages his cornmeal in sacks picturing the mill printed on an antique printing press.





BOLLINGER MILL AND COVERED BRIDGE

CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY

....8 miles southwest of Jackson on Hwy. 34 and east on HH to community of Burfordville. This picturesque combination of covered bridge and grist mill, on the Whitewater River, is one of few remaining in the nation. Located in Cape Girardeau County, the mill, built around 1800 by George F. Bollinger, was considered the largest in the district at that time. Some people traveled nearly 100 miles to have their wheat and corn ground at this prosperous mill. The mill and dam were originally built of logs, but about 1825 the present stone dam and foundation of the mill were constructed. The mill was burned during

the Civil War but was reconstructed to its present four-story brick structure. Work was begun on the Covered Bridge in 1860 but the Civil War interfered and it wasn't completed until 1868. The Howe Truss 140-foot, self-supporting span was built of yellow poplar and at the time of restoration in 1950 some of the original trusses were still strong. The bridge, which runs parallel with the dam, was built by Joseph Lanson. The covered bridge is now maintained by the Missouri Highway Commission and the old mill by the Missouri State Park Board. Picnic grounds and campgrounds are adjacent.



SANDY CREEK COVERED BRIDGE

JEFFERSON COUNTY

....5 miles north of Hillsboro on Hwy. 21 and southwest on Lemay Ferry Road. Spanning Sandy Creek, the Sandy Creek Covered Bridge was originally constructed in 1872. It was built by John H. Morse, president of the House Springs Big River Valley Macadamized and Gravel Road Company, according to the construction plans of William Howe of Massachusetts. The total cost of the bridge was \$2,000. The bridge is supported by two concrete abutments at either end and by concrete piers in the creek bed. It is 75 feet, 10 inches long and 18 feet, 10 inches wide. The long axis is oriented northeast-southwest. In 1886 high waters destroyed the bridge and the county court ordered it rebuilt in August of 1886. Henry Steffin won the contract to rebuild the bridge and, using half of the orig-

inal timber, completed the reconstruction at a cost of \$889. The rectangular structure covering the bridge floor is constructed primarily of white pine lumber. The sides are of vertical pine panels, painted red and secured to the trusses with battens. Replacement panels remain unpainted and may be easily distinguished from the original. The original bridge roof has been replaced with galvanized, corrugated metal. Inside the bridge there are no enclosures and the details of the Howe truss are easily visible. The bridge is open to vehicular traffic. In 1952, the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, wanting to retain the picturesque and historic value of the covered bridge, restored the Sandy Creek Bridge. It is presently maintained by the Missouri State Park Board.

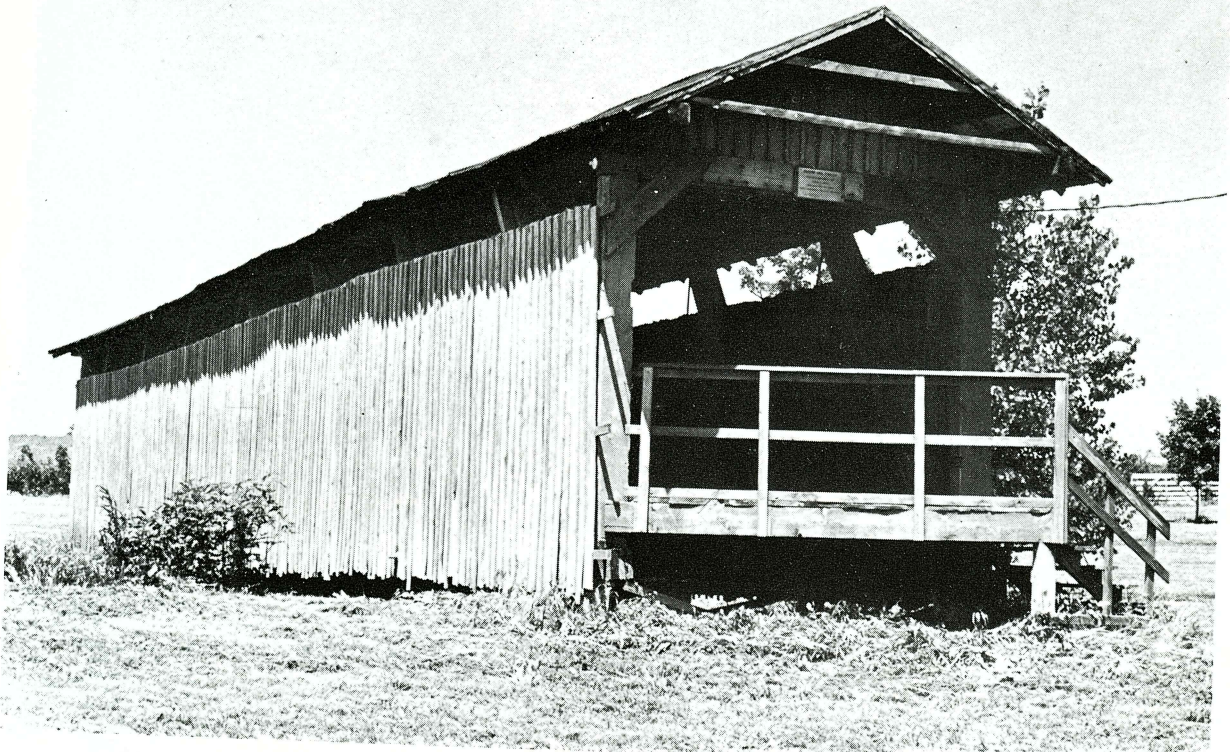


UNION COVERED BRIDGE

MONROE COUNTY

....5 miles west of Paris on Hwy. 24, 3 miles south on County Route C and ¼ mile west on unmarked, gravel road. The Union Covered Bridge, originally built in 1871, is the only bridge remaining in the state which utilizes the "Burr-arch" type construction. It is located on the Old Paris to Fayette Road and its east-west axis spans the Elk Fork of the Salt River. The bridge was named for the Union Church which was once located nearby. It is built of heavy oak timber, hand riven clapboards and wooden pegs or trunnels. Stone abutments which extend into the

road serve as the bridge approach for the 125-foot long and 17½-foot wide bridge. Joseph C. Elliott, contractor of the bridge, doubled the "Burr-arch" for additional strength. Elliott was awarded the contract by the Monroe County Court on April 8, 1870 for \$5,000. Elliott built four other Monroe County bridges, none of which remain. Under the direction of the Missouri State Park Board, the bridge was restored in 1968. It is closed to vehicular traffic but visitors are welcome to inspect the construction techniques. The Union Covered Bridge is maintained by the state park system.



“NOAH’S ARK” COVERED BRIDGE

PLATTE COUNTY

....1 mile southeast of Platte City on Hwy. 71, 5¼ miles east on Hwy. 92, 3 miles north on County Route B to Little Platte River. This is the original site of the bridge. Today, Noah’s Ark Covered Bridge has been restored and is located on the Platte County Fairgrounds. The bridge was originally built in 1878 by the farmers of the area who realized the need for the bridge and were willing to construct it themselves to get it. The bridge was constructed of hand-hewn timbers cut from nearby oak trees and hauled to the

bridge location by oxen teams. The strong arch of the bridge evidenced the ingenuity of the pioneer builders. The bridge derives its name from Judge Noah Berry who was judge of the county court at the time the bridge was built and for whom the bridge was named. The original bridge stood until July, 1965, when a flood collapsed the bridge and washed it several miles downstream. At that time it was decided to reconstruct the bridge on the Platte County Fairgrounds at Platte City.



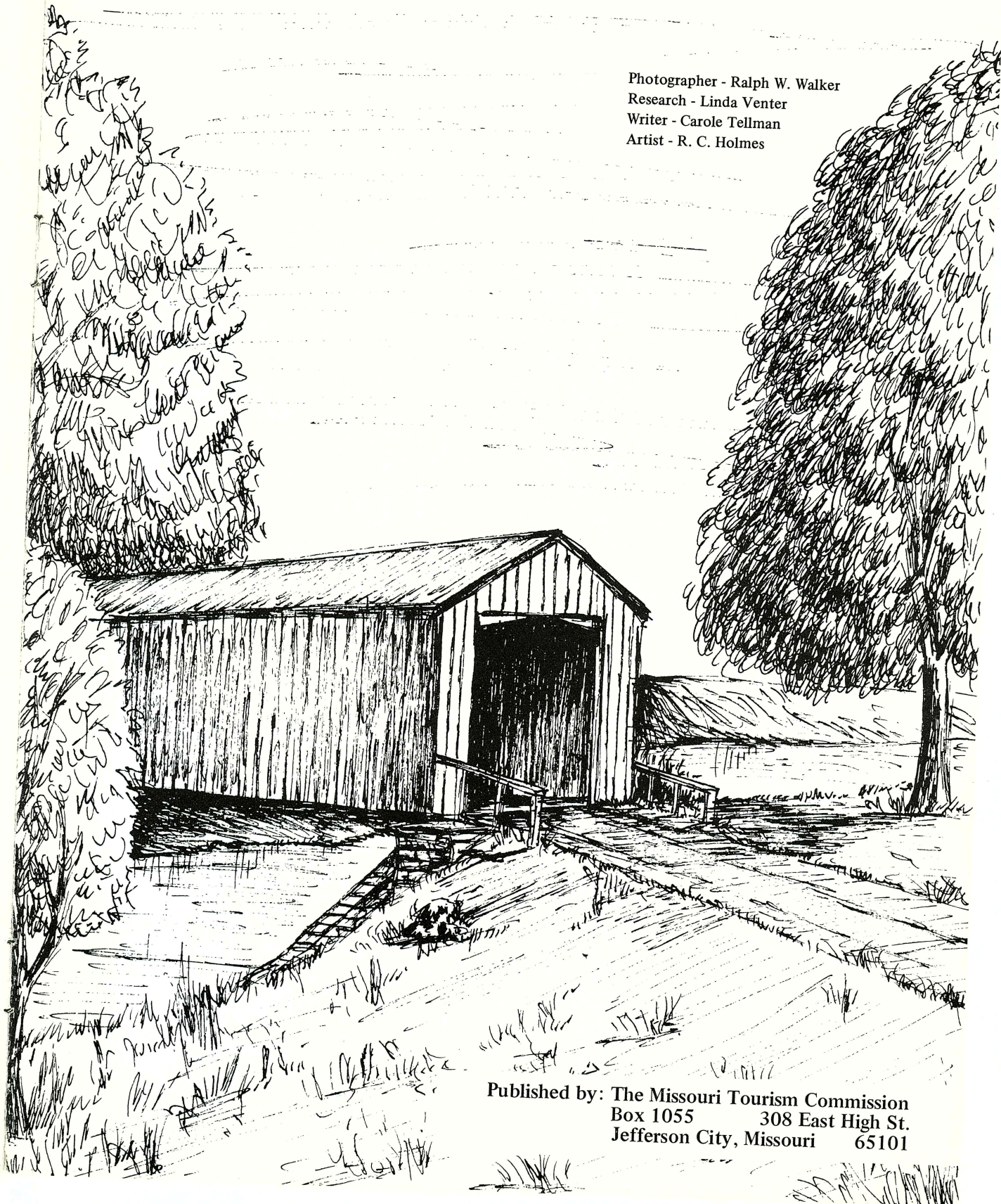
LINN COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE

LINN COUNTY

....3 miles west of Laclede on Hwy. 36, 1 mile north, then east $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile on unmarked, gravel road. Harboring many memories from years gone by, the Linn County Covered Bridge spans the now dry Locust Creek. The bridge is also well known as the Locust Creek Covered Bridge. Realizing the need for the bridge, the Linn County Court ordered the construction of a covered bridge across Locust Creek on the road from Brookfield to Collyers Mill (no longer in existence) on May 19, 1868. The bridge was to be erected "at a cost not exceeding \$5,500."

The contract for construction of the bridge was awarded to the firm of Bishop and Eaton by the county court on August 4, 1868. The bridge measures 20 feet, 3 inches high and is 151 feet long and 16 feet, 3 inches wide. The long axis of the bridge is oriented northeast-southwest. In May, 1968 the Linn County Covered Bridge became the responsibility of the Missouri State Park Board, and restoration of the bridge was completed that year. Repairs included the replacement of the roof, sheeting, sideboards and flooring. The bridge is closed to vehicular traffic because the road terminates at the bridge.

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